

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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THEORY OF THE EARTH

BY J. H. VAN DIJK

News



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Center for the Book Plans February Debut Program

Mark your calendars! The Montana Center for the Book's debut program will be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 8 and 9, in Helena. All events are free, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The celebration begins at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, with a reception, performance and book signing on the 6th floor of the Montana Club. On Saturday, Feb. 9, two panels will be held at the Lewis & Clark Public Library in Helena.

The first, from 9 a.m. until noon, will feature book designers discussing the art of constructing, designing and printing books. Participants are Peter Koch, Berkeley, CA; Stephanie Newman, Bozeman; Ann Garner, Bozeman, and DD Dowden, Helena.

At 1 p.m., Ivan Doig will talk about and read from his works. Author of *This House of Sky* and the trilogy *English Creek*, *Dancing at the Rascal Fair* and *Ride With Me, Mariah Montana*, Doig will receive the Governor's Award for the Arts in Literature on Feb. 7.

From 2-5 p.m., a panel of Montana writers will discuss and read from their works. Participants include: Linda Peavey, Bozeman; Matt Pavelich, Portland, OR; David Long, Kalispell; Ursula Smith, Bozeman; Greg Keeler, Bozeman; Linda Sexson, Bozeman, and Barry Ferst, Helena.

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Gov. Stan Stephens told delegates to the Governor's Conference on January 7 that libraries in Montana face a seriously constrained state budget. Seated near the governor are, from left to right: Mary Doggett, State Library Commission chair; Lois Fitzpatrick, conference local arrangements chair; Lucille Alt, conference parliamentarian; Gov. Stephens; Marilyn Miller, senior policy advisor to the governor, and Don Ramage, aide to the governor.

Hard Work Dominates Governor's Conference

Intense debate, working group meetings and resolution drafting dominated the second Montana Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, held January 6-8 in Helena.

Approximately 120 people (including 59 delegates) attended the three-day conference at the Park Plaza Hotel.

When it was over, 43 resolutions concerning censorship and intellectual freedom, library automation, resource sharing and collection development, among others, were drafted and will be sent to the four Montana delegates to the White

House Conference on Library and Information Services set for July 9-13, 1991, in Washington, D.C. Each resolution related to the national themes of democracy, literacy and productivity.

"The delegates all came well prepared and ready to work, and they definitely followed through," said Judy Meadows, conference co-director and presiding official. "I think because of that degree of commitment during the conference, they will probably insure that the resolutions will be carried forward."

Conference speakers included Gov. Stan Stephens; Bob Bering, law professor and law librarian,

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Governor's Conference (continued from page 1)

University of California, Berkeley; Margaret Warden, former state senator and former member of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science; U.S. Rep. Pat Williams, and Karen Everett, director of admissions, Eastern Montana College, former member of the State Library Commission and a 1978 White House Conference delegate.

Ballots electing the four delegates from Montana to this summer's White House Conference will be opened later this month and the results published in the February issue of the *Montana State Library News Update*.

'Convert' to Libraries Emerges at Conference

In a letter to State Librarian Richard Miller, Jerry L. Christison, a government-sector delegate to the Governor's Conference, had this to say about his experience:

"Thank you for the opportunity to be a delegate to the Governor's Conference on Libraries. I enjoyed the experience and the fellowship of these very committed people. I would like for you to use your newsletter to let all the librarians and their supporters know my first impressions were wrong. I now realize the extent of their commitment to service has not been marketed by them or other organizations in their communities.

"I see libraries as a very dedicated community service--so dedicated to service that they have forgotten to let people know what they do. Libraries need a good Public Relations and Marketing service to let everyone know what they have and their willingness to serve in every area.

"I have truly become an advocate of libraries in the State of Montana."



Contributions Sought For Damaged School Complex

An elementary school librarian who grew up in Plentywood is spearheading an effort to replace items destroyed when a fire swept through the Plentywood elementary and high school complex Dec. 19.

Shirley Lund, librarian at Highland Park Elementary in Miles City, said in a letter to librarians that any contributions--books, record players, cassette recorders, computers, etc.--would help make a difference.

Lund suggests donations be sent to Plentywood School, 100 E. Laurel Ave., Plentywood, 59254.

State Library Budget Hearing Scheduled

February 12 is the first hearing date scheduled for the State Library's budget for the next biennium. Included in the budget request is \$566,000 for interlibrary loan reimbursement and base grants for federation support which the governor approved under H.B. 193 in the 1989 legislative session.

The hearing will take place in the State Library's conference room, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena.

Debbie Schlesinger, MLA's legislative chair, Richard Miller, state librarian and Gloria Hermanson, the Cultural Advocacy's lobbyist, are determining the best approach for seeking the remaining funding for the other parts of the legislation approved in 1989--per-capita and per-square-mile state aide, a statewide library card and State Library administrative costs.

The governor's budget office is supporting the State Library's request for an additional clerical FTE in the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

There are also bills being drafted dealing with exemption of the State Librarian position from the state classification system and a permanent paper act which would see certain types of state documents printed on acid-free paper.



'Bear' Facts Wins As Summer Reading Theme

Librarians have selected "Get the 'Bear' Facts--Read!" as the theme for Montana's first statewide Summer Reading Program (SRP).

The grizzly bear shown above will be the mascot. Created by Helena graphic designer Amy Glascock, it appeared on the State Library's 1990 Children's Book Week bookmark (which also doubled as a 1991 Young Reader's Choice Award ballot). (Note: A bear-naming contest could be one SRP activity.)

The State Library, with help from the SRP Committee, will produce a manual this spring with camera-ready art and activity/craft suggestions for the 1991 program. There will be no charge for the manual, and participation in the SRP is strictly voluntary.

If you have ideas for, or want more information on the SRP, contact Cathy Siegner at 444-5353.

Librarians Sought For Foreign Service Program

Applications are being accepted through April 15 for the 1991/92 Library/Book Fellows Program, a joint program of the American Library Association and the U.S. Information Agency.

Positions are available in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia and range from three months to one year. Stipends are \$28,000 annually.

For more information, contact Robert P. Doyle at the ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL, 60611, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 3200.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade level for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level, with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating, the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

Mississippi Bridge, by Mildred D. Taylor, pictures by Max Ginsburg (reviewed by Barb Benish, librarian, Montana City Elementary School).

Mississippi Bridge is another of Mildred Taylor's short tales. She retains the setting and some of the characters of her previous stories.

The young white boy, Jeremy, narrates and is the bridge between black families like the Logans and their deeply prejudiced white neighbors.

The Logan's grandmama Caroline and their black neighbor Josias attempt to board a bus of predominantly white passengers, including the schoolteacher, Miz Hattie, and her granddaughter, Miss Grace Anne. The climax is shocking and echoes the author's remarks that the family stories she retells often contained "pathos and frequently tragedy."

While good as a thought-provoking story for independent readers, this book is especially recommended as a read-aloud. It's short, evokes the feelings of an era when racism was blatant, and it's an excellent vehicle for discussions. Hopefully, such group sharings will expose kids to characters who are as Taylor sees them: "people who were graced with a simply dignity that elevated them from the ordinary to the heroic."

(Grades 3-7; Q4/P3; Dial, New York; 64 pp.; \$12.95.)

Send No Blessings, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (reviewed by Barb Benish).

Fifteen-year-old Beth Herndon is the oldest of eight children from a

poor West Virginia family. As she gains recognition in school for her typing skills, Beth begins to see job possibilities that would free her from the life her parents have chosen. Her parents firmly believe children are the sole blessing of this life and are all one needs to establish an identity. Beth becomes emotionally attached to a young man who shares her parents' values, complicating her decision-making about independence.

Realistically describing issues of material hardship, family planning and psychological need, Naylor has written another fine story. Beth's relationships with her family and classmates are depicted honestly. Her antagonistic confrontations with her father, whose gentle treatment of her as a young child has changed, is a bit hurriedly resolved; however, it's important that the story ends on a hopeful note because she is finally able to understand her father's actions.

(Grades 8-12; Q3/P3; Atheneum, New York; 231 pp.; \$13.95.)

A Very Young Skier, by Jill Krementz (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln Elementary School, Helena).

In the same format as others in the series (*A Very Young Rider*, *A Very Young Skater*, etc.), this title has high quality color photographs on every page. The brief, clearly-written text describes how a third-grade girl in Sun Valley selects skis, takes downhill lessons, races, and goes on cross-country outings with her family. Many Montana children in the 5-11 age range will be able to identify with her.

(Grades 1-6; Q4/P4; Dial, New York; 1990; unpagged; \$16.95; ISBN 0-8037-0823-8.)

Baseball, Football, Daddy and Me, by David Friend, pictures by Rick Brown (reviewed by Charlotte Henson).

The strength of this book for preschoolers lies mainly in the "darling" cartoon pictures of an improbable father taking his little son along to a variety of profession-

al ball games. The slight, repetitive text in semi-rhyme is appealing only if you are under six or a parent who wants an excuse to describe the different sports to your child. I did like the ending: the child is happy because dad takes him outside to play, "just with me."

(PS-2; Q2/P3; Viking, New York; 1990; unpagged; \$11.95; ISBN 0-670-82420-8.)

The Fool and the Fish: A Tale From Russia, by Alexander Nikolayevich Afanasyev, paintings by Gennady Spirin (reviewed by Charlotte Henson).

Over a century ago, Afanasyev put this traditional Russian folktale into print. Lazy Ivan rescues a fish that grants him whatever he wishes. The fool then proceeds to do as he pleases, to no one's taste except the rebellious princess.

The extraordinary full-page, full-color artwork with finely detailed views of historical Russia charmed me, while matching the humor of the story. Yet when I read the story to schoolchildren, I saw they enjoyed it but were not strongly moved by either its art, humor or plot. Nonetheless, I would recommend it for libraries that need more picture books on the Soviet Union or Russian folklore.

Forbidden City: A Novel of Modern China, by William Bell (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Big Sandy Schools).

Alex Jackson, the seventeen-year-old son of a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation cameraman, feels a trip to China is a dream come true. Alex is a history buff with a special interest in China and a general interest in military history. His father's assignment to cover Gorbachev's visit in May gives Alex the chance of a lifetime, assuming his mother and his principal can be convinced the trip is a good idea.

The excitement of learning Chinese and visiting tombs and palaces quickly pales as university students begin their demonstrations and eventually occupy Tiananmen

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Square.

Alex records the events in diary-fashion as he, his father, and the CBC correspondent find themselves caught up in the life-and-death drama precipitated by the students' demands for government reform. Human sacrifice and party politics both become real as Alex struggles to survive his encounter with Chinese history in the making.

This fictional account of a contemporary piece of history as seen through a teenager's eyes is powerful.

(Grades 7-12; Q3/P3; Bantam Books, New York; 200 pp.; \$14.95.)

Soda Jerk, by Cynthia Rylant (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Soda Jerk is a collection of Rylant's unique poetry, illustrated with Peter Catalanotto's paintings. In a style reminiscent of Masters and Robinson, Rylant grants her readers glimpses of the people, the pains, the peculiarities and the promises of a small town in contemporary America as observed and evaluated by a teenage boy working at the drugstore soda fountain.

Poetry is not the favorite reading matter of the average teenager, but this collection is, as my students were quick to point out, not really poetry. Those poetic devices which confound many readers are not obvious. The language is imaginative and the ideas thought-provoking, but the form is conversational and comfortable.

(Grades 7-12; Q3/P2; Orchard Books, New York; 47 pp.; \$14.95.)

Mikhail Gorbachev, by Michael Kort (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Mikhail Gorbachev, charismatic leader of the USSR, is, in the eyes of many Americans, a man who suddenly burst upon the international scene. This bibliography traces the step-by-step climb of Gorbachev, son of a farm machinery operator in Privolnoye, from that rural setting to Moscow State University, back to the Stavropol

region and once again to Moscow. This climb carried him up through the ranks of the Communist Party from the Komsomol to the leadership position he currently holds.

This book deals with Soviet history in addition to Gorbachev's personal history. Kort provides background on Gorbachev which makes it clear that while this Soviet leader may be a man who frequently manages to be in the right place at the right time, he is also a man of vision and determination.

(Grades 9-12; Q3/P3; Franklin Watts, New York; 160 pp.; \$13.90.)

Applications To Be Mailed

The State Library expects to have applications for LaserCat and LSCA Title II construction grants distributed by the end of January.

LaserCat grant applications will be mailed to all libraries. Title II applications will be mailed to all public libraries.

If you have not received the appropriate grant application by February 11, please call the Library Development program, 444-5349, and request one.

Academic and Special Group Calls For Papers

The Academic and Special Librarian Division is sponsoring another call for papers program this year at the Montana Library Association conference in Missoula April 24-27.

Do you have any research, innovative programs or new developments you would like to present? This is a good opportunity to share ideas and gain experience in presenting.

This program is open to all librarians and staff. There will be six, 15-minute talks. Speaker names, paper titles and abstracts will be published in a handout for distribution at the program.

If you are interested, send your name, position, institution, mailing address, phone, title and abstract of your paper to: Barry Brown (243-6800), Mansfield Library, University of Montana, Missoula, 59812.

Deadline for submission is April 1.

National Library Week

"Kids who read succeed" (or simply, "Read. Succeed.") is the theme for this year's National Library Week, April 14-20, sponsored by the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians.

First Lady Barbara Bush will again be honorary chair of the "Night of a Thousand Stars" promotion on Wednesday, April 17, (also known as the "Great American Read Aloud").

This day-long event features celebrities and other guests reading aloud from their favorite books at school, public and college libraries across the country.

For more information on National Library Week, send a postcard to "Night of a Thousand Stars," ALA Public Information Office, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, IL, 60611.

State Library Helps Sponsor GIS Conference

More than 300 participants and 15 international vendors attended the third annual Geographic Information System conference held December 4-6 in Missoula.

Allan Cox of the State Library's Natural Resource Information System was program chair for the conference, and both he and NRIS director Jon Sesso presented there.

The conference was sponsored by the GIS Users Group, of which NRIS is a member, and hosted by the UM School of Forestry.

"There's been tremendous growth in interest in GIS technology," Sesso said. "At our 1988 conference, 80 people attended; in 1989, 180, and in 1990, we had 340. This interest is across all disciplines, but primarily in natural resource management areas where GIS technology can be most useful."

Sesso added the State Library was seen as a prime mover of GIS in Montana at the conference, and the staff anticipates another successful GIS conference in 1991, tentatively scheduled for Bozeman and hosted by the MSU earth science dept.

Press Roundup

The North Valley Library District (formerly the Stevensville Public Library) has been deemed a building more than twice the size of its current space courtesy of local residents Ken and Norma Bangs.

Memorials are flooding into the Polson City Library in the form of books, furnishings and equipment.

Out of financial need, the Missoula Public Library is now charging 50 cents per week for recently published books and a \$20 annual user fee for patrons who live outside Missoula County.

There was broad press coverage of the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Libraries at Risk. The Associated Press covered the story, plus it ran in many Montana daily and weekly papers and on several TV stations.

A "Tunes for Tots" program was held in early January at the Great Falls Public Library.

The building fund for a new Boulder Community Library was helped by a special gingerbread house auction held in December.

Christmas stockings made by local school children decorated the Plains Public Library check-out desk this past holiday season.

The Butte-Silver Bow Public Library's annual Battle of the Books starts in January. An estimated 300 students will take part in the question-and-answer book battles.

The grand re-opening of the remodeled Lewistown City Library is set for mid-January.

A special reading and discussion program is being held at Moore Public Library, Flathead County Library and Bitterroot Public Library. The series is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

During the Christmas season, the Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge featured arts and crafts made by prison inmates.

Liberty County Library in Chester is sponsoring an amateur

photography contest with the theme of "Year of the Lifetime Reader."

Rather than close the facility, Hobson Library supporters have decided to raise money and seek grants to renovate the building.

A book sale at the Laurel Public Library helped buy books for the youth and children's section.

The sale of light bulbs helped buy large-print books for the Conrad Public Library.

A fine waiver period ushered in the New Year at the Manhattan Community Library.

The bid to renovate the former US West Building in Butte to accommodate the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library is expected to be awarded this month.

Patrons are being asked for ideas on using part of a substantial bequest to the Chouteau County Free Library in Fort Benton.

A year-long centennial celebration starts in January at the Bozeman Public Library. A birthday party will be held in July.

The Livingston Public Library and the Eureka Branch Library are featuring all the entries for the 1991 Young Reader's Choice Award and encouraging young readers to pick their favorite.

An entire first-grade class in Miles City traveled to the Miles City Public Library to get their first library card and check out books.

The Parmly Billings Library is circulating hundreds of compact discs to patrons thanks to the library's foundation.

College of Great Falls telecom classes will be held starting in mid-January at the Glasgow City-County Library.

New Book Choice Award Designed For K-3 Set

A program started by the Missoula Public Library and School District One in Missoula lets students in kindergarten through third grade pick their favorite titles for a new children's choice award.

Any Montana student in grades K-3 may take part in the program, which requires them to read or listen to all five nominated picture books. Each title will have been published in the past five years.

Votes are due the first week of May 1991 and will include a contest to name the award.

Librarians and teachers who wish more information on the award program are encouraged to contact Carole Monlux, School District One, 215 S. 6th West, Missoula, 59801, or Bette Ammon, Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main, Missoula, 59802.

ALA President To Speak At University of Montana

Richard Dougherty, president of the American Library Association, will speak Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the University of Montana's Montana Theater on "The Crisis in Scholarly Communication: Has the Vehicle Lost a Wheel?" His address is scheduled for 8 p.m.



Center for the Book (continued from page 1)

The Center's debut is sponsored in part by the Montana Committee for the Humanities, the Montana Arts Council and Falcon Press.

The Montana Center for the Book was created in April 1990 and is headquartered at the State Library in Helena, with satellite centers at the public libraries in Billings, Glasgow, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City and Missoula.

For more information on the Center for the Book or the debut program, call Cathy Siegner at the State Library, 444-5353, or Debbie Schlesinger at Lewis & Clark Public Library, 442-2380.

Friends of Libraries Offers Annual Awards

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. has announced its 1991 awards competition for state and local Friends organizations. The deadline is April 5, 1991.

This annual competitions offers awards in the following four categories: state Friends group, large public library Friends (more than 300,000 population), small public library Friends (fewer than 300,000) and academic library Friends. Each award carries a \$1,000 cash prize from Baker & Taylor book jobbers.

Each category has a separate application contact and address. Call Cathy Siegner at 444-5353 if you would like more information.

Calendar of Events

January

- 28 Library Services Advisory Council, Helena

February

- 7 State Library Commission, Helena
8-9 Montana Center for the Book debut program, Helena
12 State Library budget hearing, Helena
14 Valentine's Day
18 Presidents' Day Holiday
22-23 Western Library Network Offline retreat, Fairmont Hot Springs

Around The State

Special Library Changes:

Arriving--Sandra Jarvie, regional librarian, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, Montana State Library; Joanne Stevens, accounting technician, State Library; Stu Kirkpatrick, data base technician, State Library.

Academic Library Changes:

Departing--Larry Grieco, director, Stone Child College library, Box Elder.

Flathead County Library Purchases TDD Machine

Flathead County Library in Kalispell has purchased a TDD machine so hearing- and speech-impaired patrons may communicate with the library by telephone.



Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

C.E. Abramson,
Vice-Chair
Missoula

Lloyd Wallin
Deer Lodge

Nancy Keenan
Helena

Mary Hudspeth
Libby

Anne Hauptman
Billings

Michael Schulz
Dillon

Commissioners' addresses are in the
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